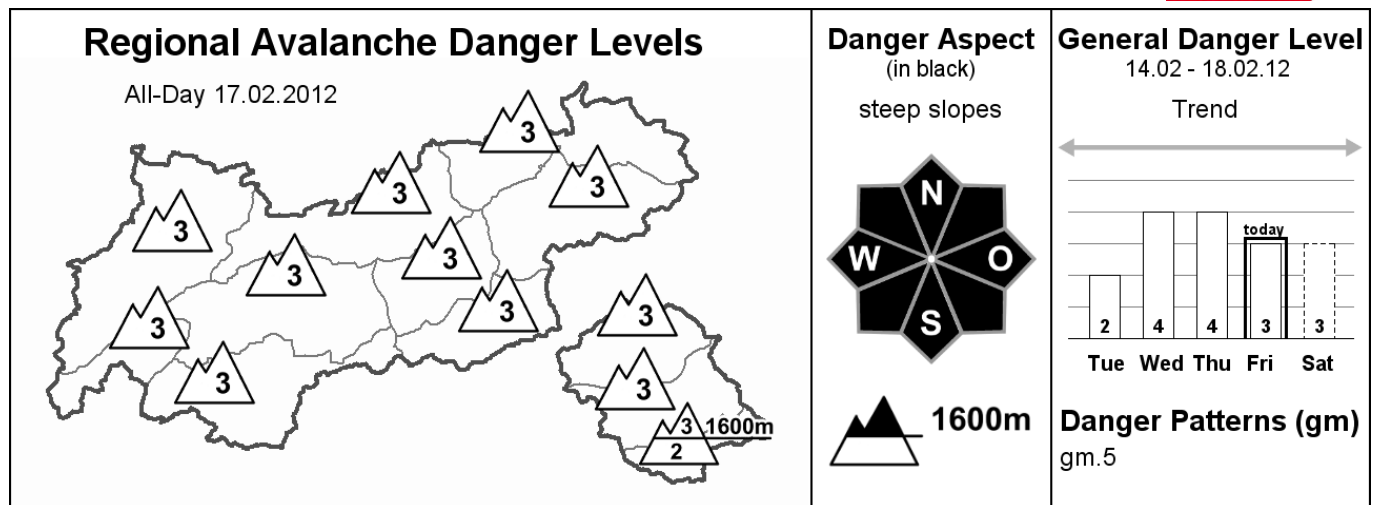


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 17.02.2012, at 07:30



Treacherous situation - considerable avalanche danger widespread

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche situation in Tirol's backcountry touring regions is delicate and treacherous, the danger far and wide is considerable. The major peril stems from snowdrift accumulations which have formed over the last few days. They are highly prone to triggering, making it easy to release an avalanche; even minimum additional loading is sufficient i.e. the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects, particularly above approximately 1600 m and in the treeline zone. Isolated naturally triggered avalanches are also possible, but these should not reach large size.

SNOW LAYERING

Yesterday morning there was a small amount of snowfall in Tirol. Under the influence of the daytime warming cycle and solar radiation, the new fallen snow has already begun to settle somewhat. Over the long period of cold, the uppermost snowpack layers transformed to faceted, utterly unbonded crystals. Thus, the sometimes massive snowdrift which accumulated atop the snowpack during the last period of precipitation is poorly bonded with this surface. The lower layers of the old snowpack are solid and stable, so it is unlikely that when upper layers fracture the lower layers will be swept along.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather in general: Tirol will be brushed by a warm front on Friday, particularly in the Lower Inn Valley. Northerly foehn winds will continue to prevail in South and East Tirol. On Saturday, an intermediate high will dominate. On Sunday, a cold front will approach from the northwest, reaching and traversing Tirol on Monday. Mountain weather today: This morning in the Northern and Central Alps, particularly towards the east, diffuse light conditions and light snowfall from place to place. Conditions will then turn pleasant in most regions, with the most sunshine expected towards the west. From the Ortler to the Tauern, strong northerly winds will prevail. Temperature at 2000 m: between minus 8 and minus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: between minus 12 and minus 9 degrees. Brisk to strong velocity northwesterly wind.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger will recede only gradually

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe